

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter of the invention.

Claim 9 has been amended to correct a clerical error.

Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sato (European Patent Application Publication 0761371). For at least the following reasons, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed. Sato does not describe each and every feature as recited in the claimed invention.

Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to recite that the heating unit is mounted into the mounting hole in a loose state with a substantial space enough to prevent a contact pressure of the heating unit against the inner surface of the mounting hole. The amendment is supported by the original specification, for example, on page 20, lines 12-15. Sato does not disclose that the heating unit is mounted into the mounting hole in a loose state with a substantial space enough to prevent a contact pressure of the heating unit against the inner surface of the mounting hole as required in claims 1 and 5. Because Sato does not disclose each and every feature set forth in claims 1 and 5, Sato does not anticipate claims 1 and 5.

With regard to claim 9, Sato does not disclose a rod shaped heating unit inserted into the first direction of the horn as required in claim 9. The Examiner contends that in Sato's Fig. 1, the horn vibrates in the first direction of the x-y axis and the protruding part protrudes in the second direction of the z-axis. The Examiner also contends that in Sato's Fig. 1, the

rod-shaped heating unit is shown to be inserted in the x-y axis, which corresponds to the first direction. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Sato's rod-shaped heating unit is inserted in the x-y direction and also perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the horn (see Fig. 1 of Sato). The Applicants are aware of that during patent examination, the pending claims must be given the broadest reasonable interpretation. However, the Examiner is reminded that consistent with the well-established axiom in patent law that a patentee or applicant is free to be his or her own lexicographer, a patentee or applicant may use terms in a manner contrary to or inconsistent with one or more of their ordinary meanings if the written description clearly redefines the terms (See, e.g., *Process Control Corp. v. HydReclaim Corp.*, 190 F.3d 1350, 1357, 52 USPQ2d 1029, 1033 (Fed. Cir. 1999)). In the Applicants' specification the term "first direction" is determined as "longitudinal direction of the horn" (see, for example, page 4, lines 6-7 and page 12, lines 10-11 of the specification), and the term "second direction" is determined as "substantially perpendicular to the first direction" (see, for example, page 4, lines 8-9 and page 14, line 2 of the specification). These terms are also used in the same claim (claim 9). Therefore, in the claimed invention, the rod shaped heating unit is inserted into the first (longitudinal) direction of the horn. In Sato's figure 1, the heaters 6a and 7a are shown to be inserted in the direction perpendicular to the horn, which correspond to the second direction of the claimed invention (see Fig. 1 of Sato). Also in Sato's embodiments 4-11, a heater is provided at one end of the ultrasonic horn in the direction perpendicular to the horn (see Figs. 5-9 of Sato). Therefore, none of Sato's embodiment discloses a rod shaped heating unit inserted into the first (longitudinal) direction of a transversely elongated horn, as required in claim 9. Because Sato does not disclose each and every feature set forth in claim 9, Sato does not anticipate claim 9.

The remaining claims in this application depend directly or indirectly on claims 1, 5 or 9 and thus are patentable for at least the same reasons as the parent claims.

Furthermore, Sato does not disclose that a vent part is provided for preventing the transfer of heat to the vibrator in the horn between the vibrator and the bonding operation part, as recited in claims 2, 6 and 10. Sato does not disclose that the vent part is a transversely elongated slit in the first direction, as recited in claims 3, 7 and 11. Because Sato does not disclose each and every feature set forth in claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 10 and 11, Sato does not anticipate claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 10 and 11.

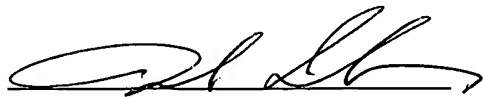
In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned agent to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 36685.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 20, 2006